

under which small projects are permitted to proceed based on estimates. The bill increases the ceiling for small projects to \$100,000, an increase from the current level of \$55,000. Finally, S. 2382 requires FEMA to expeditiously report back to Congress on the status of its recovery efforts from these storms.

S. 2382, as amended, also includes a provision from H.R. 3247, as reported by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs, that authorizes FEMA to provide case management services to citizens impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. It is unfortunate that some citizens still require these services as they struggle to recover three years after these storms.

The bill further requires FEMA to review, update, and revise, through rulemaking, the factors considered in making recommendations for the assistance to individuals and families under the Stafford Act as provided in 44 CFR 206.48. State and local governments have expressed concerns about the lack of clarity in these regulations, which they use to gauge when to seek assistance from the Federal Government.

I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA), Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for working with me on this bipartisan amendment to S. 2382, and I strongly support its passage.

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE HERITAGE OF THE COAST GUARD

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table House Resolution 1382 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from West Virginia?

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1382

Whereas the Coast Guard, including its predecessor organizations, has a long and distinguished heritage dating back to the very first Congress in 1789;

Whereas the Coast Guard is now in its 219th year of protecting the coast, saving life and property, protecting the environment, and ensuring the safety of life and property at sea;

Whereas the Coast Guard and its predecessor organizations have been responsible for safe navigation since Congress—

(1) authorized “the necessary support, maintenance and repairs of all lighthouse, beacons, buoys”, and specifically authorized the construction of the first Federal lighthouse at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay, on August 7, 1789; and

(2) established the Lighthouse Board on October 9, 1852;

Whereas the Coast Guard and its predecessor organizations have, since September 1, 1789, been responsible for registering (documenting) vessels of the United States;

Whereas the Coast Guard and its predecessor organizations have protected the

coast since Congress authorized the President to build and equip ten revenue cutters, on August 4, 1790, which were to be paid for from “duties on goods, wares and merchandise, imported into the United States, and on the tonnage of ships or vessels”;

Whereas the Coast Guard and its predecessor organizations have inspected vessels since Congress adopted, on July 7, 1838, an Act “to provide better security of the lives of passengers on board of vessels propelled in whole or in part by steam”, thus beginning the Steamboat Inspection Service;

Whereas the Coast Guard and its predecessor organizations have conducted lifesaving operations along our coasts since Congress first appropriated funding for lifesaving equipment for the use of volunteers on August 14, 1848, the first lifesaving stations were authorized on June 20, 1874, and the Life-Saving Service was established by Act of Congress on June 19, 1878;

Whereas the Coast Guard and its predecessor organizations have had “superintendence of all commercial marine and merchant seamen of the United States . . .”; been “charged with the supervision of the laws relating to the admeasurement of vessels, and the assigning of signal letters thereto, and designating their official number . . .”; and “annually prepare and publish a list of vessels of the United States . . .” since Congress established Shipping Commissioners on June 7, 1872, and established the Bureau of Navigation on July 5, 1884;

Whereas the Revenue Cutter Service and the Life-Saving Service were merged, by Act of Congress signed into law on January 28, 1915, to form the Coast Guard as an agency of the Department of the Treasury;

Whereas the Lighthouse Service became part of the Coast Guard on July 1, 1939, as part of a government reorganization plan adopted by Congress on April 3, 1939;

Whereas the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation (a merger of the Steamboat Inspection Service and the Bureau of Navigation) became part of the Coast Guard in another reorganization in July 1946;

Whereas the Coast Guard was transferred from the Department of the Treasury to the newly established Department of Transportation on April 1, 1967; and

Whereas the Coast Guard was transferred to the newly established Department of Homeland Security in March 2003: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes and honors all the men and women of the Coast Guard and its predecessor organizations since August 7, 1789.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BROADBAND DATA IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Commerce be discharged from further consideration of the Senate bill (S. 1492) to improve the quality of Federal and State data regarding the availability and quality of broadband services and to promote the deployment of affordable broadband services to all parts of the Nation, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from West Virginia?

There was no objection.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 1492

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Broadband Data Improvement Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The deployment and adoption of broadband technology has resulted in enhanced economic development and public safety for communities across the Nation, improved health care and educational opportunities, and a better quality of life for all Americans.

(2) Continued progress in the deployment and adoption of broadband technology is vital to ensuring that our Nation remains competitive and continues to create business and job growth.

(3) Improving Federal data on the deployment and adoption of broadband service will assist in the development of broadband technology across all regions of the Nation.

(4) The Federal Government should also recognize and encourage complementary state efforts to improve the quality and usefulness of broadband data and should encourage and support the partnership of the public and private sectors in the continued growth of broadband services and information technology for the residents and businesses of the Nation.

SEC. 3. IMPROVING FEDERAL DATA ON BROADBAND.

(a) IMPROVING FCC BROADBAND DATA.—Within 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Communications Commission shall issue an order in WC docket No. 07–38 which shall, at a minimum—

(1) revise or update, if determined necessary, the existing definitions of advanced telecommunications capability, or broadband;

(2) establish a new definition of second generation broadband to reflect a data rate that is not less than the data rate required to reliably transmit full-motion, high-definition video; and

(3) revise its Form 477 reporting requirements to require filing entities to report broadband connections and second generation broadband connections by 5-digit postal zip code plus 4-digit location.

(b) EXCEPTION.—The Commission shall exempt an entity from the reporting requirements of subsection (a)(3) if the Commission determines that a compliance by that entity with the requirements is cost prohibitive, as defined by the Commission.

(c) IMPROVING SECTION 706 INQUIRY.—Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (47 U.S.C. 157 nt) is amended—

(1) by striking “regularly” in subsection (b) and inserting “annually”;

(2) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (e); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) MEASUREMENT OF EXTENT OF DEPLOYMENT.—In determining under subsection (b) whether advanced telecommunications capability is being deployed to all Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion, the Commission shall consider data collected using 5-digit postal zip code plus 4-digit location.

“(d) DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION FOR UNSERVED AREAS.—As part of the inquiry required by subsection (b), the Commission shall, using 5-digit postal zip code plus 4-digit location information, compile a list of geographical areas that are not served by